

COL. JOHN GORHAM'S

"WAST BOOK."

FAC-SIMILES.

Capture of Louisburg

WITH NOTES BY
FRANK WILLIAM SPRAGUE.

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COL. JOHN GORHAM'S "WAST BOOK."

FAC-SIMILES.

THE "Fac-simile" of a part of the "Wast Book" first appeared in the January, 1898, number of the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, that publication having printed notes of it with other interesting Gorham records in the April and October numbers of 1897. The only error that we have discovered in Col. John Gorham's "Wast Book" is that he makes Capt. John Gorham the son of John (see Facsimile No. I.). The Plymouth Colony records prove that his father's name was Ralph.

In January, 1896, the *New-England Historical and Genealogical Register* contained the writer's notes of "Barnstable Gorhams," and in the same number was "Eben Parsons and Fatherland Farm," by Mrs. Susan E. P. Forbes. "Eben Parsons married Mary Gorham, May 1767." The "Wast Book" was for a great many years among the papers of Eben Parsons, at Byfield, Mass. Upon the death of his son Gorham Parsons, in 1844, this book was handed down through several generations of the family and recently it came into the possession of the present owner, Mr. John M. Gorham of Cleveland, Ohio, by whose courtesy the writer is enabled to present this fac-simile to those interested in the family records.

The story of Col. John Gorham's part in the capture of Louisburg is best told by himself in his letter to Sir William Pepperrell, Parsons's Life of Pepperrell, page 240:—

"HALIFAX July 5, 1751"

"I did your message to our Governor, who since tells me he has wrote your honor. I will take the freedom to remind your honor how I came to be in that glorious expedition against Louisburg. I was sent up to recruit from Annapolis Royal, by Governor Mascarene, as that fort was then in great danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, and this expedition being then in embryo, I was importuned by Governor Shirley, and desired by your honor and many more of the council, to raise a number of men, and purchase whale boats and proceed in the expedition, as I did, upon condition of my having the liberty of going home [to England] with your honor's packet in my own sloop, as soon as the English flag should be hoisted at Louisburg. But I was disappointed in this, and received no commission in his royal regiment. My Father died, and most of his regiment at Louisburg. But I thank you for giving me the Commission of Colonel of my father's regiment; and I now solicit a letter of recommendation abroad, and assistance to carry through my memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts."

"These favors were granted; and in respect to the promise of sending him bearer of despatches announcing the conquest, it should be remembered that it was made before Warren joined the expedition, who had an equal voice with Pepperrell, in selecting a bearer, and would prefer a regularly commissioned officer of high rank in the Navy, as being more respectful to the King."

The widow of Col. John Gorham, in a letter written by her to Governor Cornwallis, dated "Boston, June 8, 1752," says: "My dearly beloved husband in his loyal service to the King, has expended his entire fortune." (Bourne Papers, Harvard College Library.)

Lieut. Christopher Gorham, and his brother Charles, sons of Col. Gorham, were in the "Gorham Rangers," commanded by their uncle Joseph Gorham, in the expedition which captured Havana, in 1762. Christopher died at Havana, and Charles at Grenada. (Bourne Papers, Harvard College Library, and Facsimile No. VI. containing the Gorham Family record.)

The "Bourne Papers" found in Barnstable, Mass., were given to the Harvard College Library by the late Judge Joseph M. Day of Barnstable. Among these papers there are many letters written by Major General Joseph Gorham to Melatiah Bourne, who was his cousin. General Gorham was a younger brother of Col. John Gorham, his letters dated from 1760 to 1775. According to the Memoir of this man written in London, in 1887, by Louis D'Aguiar Jackson, his commission as Major General in the English army was dated 28 April, 1790.

In one of his letters to Melatiah Bourne, he states that he has received grants of land for the estate of his brother John, and for himself, for their services in Nova Scotia. He also states that at that time his rank was Lieutenant. It would appear from this statement that he was at Louisburg in 1745.

The following extract from one of his letters shows that his brother David Gorham, of Barnstable, was an officer in the 1762 expedition:—

"BATH, Oct. 24, 1774.

"A Captain Payne, of that regiment was Lieut. to David Gorham's company at the Havana."

Otis, in "Barnstable Families," vol. i., page 119, says of William Bourne (brother of Melatiah Bourne): "He served in *Gorham's Rangers* at the taking of Louisburg in 1757. From this it would appear that Joseph Gorham took part in both sieges of Louisburg.

Another item from the letter written at Bath, England, October 24, 1774, is of interest as showing the feeling of the English toward the Americans at that time:—

"Since writing the above Col. Amherst is come to Bath, and by advice of some of the Court party yesterday from London, says that a new Par-

liament was painfully struck with a view and with a better character to adopt some more favorable measures to satisfy the people of America. Yet they want to trim you Bostonians, who are represented and looked upon as principals from the beginning. Little considering that if these measures had commenced in any other part of the Continent, the same sort of opposition would have been given."

At the unveiling of the Louisburg Memorial, June 17, 1895, Col. James Madison Whittemore, U.S.A., a descendant of Col. John Gorham (through his son Lieut. Solomon Gorham of Gloucester, Mass.) was placed in command of the procession.

From 1675 to 1762 five successive generations of Gorhams, from father to son, who had lived or were born in Barnstable, Mass., held rank as military men.

Capt. Benjamin Gorham, who married Nancy Hinckley, in Boston, Nov. 28, 1774, was another son of Col. Shubael Gorham.

Capt. Benjamin Gorham, Junior, also a shipmaster, married in Boston, February 13, 1809, Nancy Kneeland. The following notes of the senior Capt. Benjamin Gorham may be found in Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings, vol. iv., page 219, and vol. xiii., page 173:—

"MARCH 6, 1774."

"Capt. Benjamin Gorham, nine weeks from London, in the Brig Fortune, brought 28½ chests of Bohea tea consigned to several persons here."

"March 7" "This evening a number of Indians, as is said of his Majesty of Ocnookortunkogg tribe, emptied every chest into the dock and destroyed the whole 28½ chests."

Several generations of the descendants of Capt. Benjamin Gorham have owned plantations in Cuba. Not long since the *Barnstable Patriot* had an account of the Glean brothers as being descendants of this branch of the Gorham family, making mention that these brothers are owners of plantations in Cuba.

Our readers may be interested to know that a letter from Col. Joseph Gorham, dated "Fort Cumberland," November 10, 1776, may be found in Kidder's "Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia," page 73.

Mr. T. B. Akin, Record Commissioner of Halifax, published Memoirs of the "First Council" in Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society for the years 1879-80, vol. ii. On pages 26 and 27 may be found a Memoir of Col. John Gorham.

One of our expert genealogists pronounces the "Wast Book" one of the best antiquarian finds of the year.

Of the fac-similes, Numbers I. to IV. are extracts from the Waste Book; Number V. is the title on the cover of the book; and Number VI. is the record of Col. John Gorham's family from a loose leaf found among the same papers.

I.

The Rise of the Family of Gorham being Feb 9 1745
Capt George Gorham taken from

my Great Great Grand Father & Family (came out
of some part of England and lived at Marshfield
and had one son named after him, John Gorham
John Gorham, alias Gorham, -- which son after ~~some~~
~~of his first married~~ ^{had} ~~some~~
Having married with an Howland and Ferrall (son)
Went home to England and returned some again to
his family --

His Father lived & died at Marshfield and what's
Remarkable he has a Spine and Made his Paper
himself for several years before he died and used to
keep apples in it a Chest until he died & used

Desire
the son John that married Howland and went to England
Moved from Marshfield to Portsmouth and settled
there in order to begin a ^{after some time} ~~township~~ ^{small} ~~mill~~ ^{mill} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~
Children names -- John James -- John Joseph
Isabel and Thaddeus now living
Daughters -- Elizabeth -- Mary a Hallat, at ^{London} ~~Portsmouth~~
Temperance married Thomas Dexter an old England man
lived at Portsmouth --

Desire Gorham married Capt Henry Portsmouth --
having his Leg Cut off Died with it
Lydia Gorham married Col John Fletcher
Hannah -- married a Wheeling boat to mood's
Cape May

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II.

John Gorham, was Captain of a Company of
English & Indian and went to the fight of
King Philip's - or Swamp War against Sisseton and
there was wounded by having his powder horn hit
and split against his side and wounded and died
at the battle. His last name was - his design
was Barker.

III.

Michael Gorham married at Wrentham, Martha Hapgood.
Remark - he and my grandfather and all the women
in going over to Wrentham to the wedding was taken
prisoners and stopped by a small French Schooner
from Port Roy all against Wrentham & France.
He had three sons all died the same.
Ezra Samuels & Jonathan were sisters and all
went to married at Wrentham.

James Gorham married a Higgins and at Wrentham.
Joseph Gorham married a Sparrow. They lived in Wrentham.
Isabel Gorham married John Jay sister to Mary Sturge
moved to Wrentham.

His second Son was My Grandfather Col John
 Gorham married Mary Otis Col John Otis Sister
 Children: ~~Stephen~~ Mary married Capt Joseph
 Hinkley — Temperance married Stephen Clegg
 Thankful married Capt John Fuller Mercy
 Mary Col Alvana Bourne —

My Stephen Gorham lived his time at Nantucket married
 with Nathl Hart Buck Black Smith & married Eliza
 Gardner daughter of James Gardner and both
 way of the Quaker principally —
 had about 20 Children. Daughters married at Nantucket
 some all lived the sea. Stephen lived aged about 60

Shubell Gorham married Mary Hatcher Col John
 Hatcher. Daughters daughter Anne Cozens. — Hannah
 Children — John David — Mary William Lydia Hannah
 Shubell — Joseph Henry —
 died Col Gorham died at Nantucket Feb 20 1745/6

John Gorham married Prudence Crocker — many Children
 Job Gorham married Joseph Dimock second wife a
 Sister to Capt Ed Dimock killed in the Expedition
 his second wife — Capt Jacob Freeman Widdow —

V.

Wash Book belonging to Jm^r Gorham
 began in Louisbourg August 28th
 1745

Name

Susan G
 Mary G
 Anne G
 John G
 Penith G
 Eliza G
 Daniel G
 James Allyn
 Charles G
 David G
 James Allyn
 Mary G
 Solomon G
 Susan G
 Susan G

M

*A Register of the Births, Names and Deaths of
the Children of John Gorham & Eliza Allen
The former born at Yarmouth Dec^r 1709 the latter
at Barnstable June 5th 1713 and were married the 9th of March 1732*

Names.	Born	Died	Age at their Deaths			Born on	Died on	Where Born	Where Died
			Years	months	days				
Susan Gorham	Dec ^r 1702	March 1753	5	2	23	Tuesd	Thurs	Barnstable	Barnstable
Mary Gorham	Dec ^r 1703	Jun ^r 1754	4	1	24	Mon ^d	Fryd	Barnstable	Barnstable
Anne Gorham	July 1704	Mar ^r 1731	2	7	25	Wedn	Satur	Barnstable	Barnstable
John Gorham	Dec ^r 1706	Feb ^r 1727	21			Mon ^d		Barnstable	Throusdale Sea
Perieth Gorham	Jan ^r 1708	Oct ^r 1729	21			Tuesd		Barnstable	Barrenna in the Sea
Eliza Gorham	Dec ^r 1709	Mar ^r 1732	22	3	4	Mon ^d	Tuesd	Barnstable	Gloucester
Daniel Gorham	Feb ^r 1711	June 1731	3		20	Thursd	Wedn	Barnstable	Barnstable
James Allen Gorham	Aug ^r 1712	Sept ^r 1729	16			Mon ^d	Thursd	Cause Bay	Cause Bay
Charles Gorham	Aug ^r 1713	1763				Mon ^d		Cause Bay	Grenada
Sarah Gorham	July 1714	Aug ^r 1734	1	1	20	Tuesd	Fryd	Windsor	Boston
John Allen Gorham	Oct ^r 1715	Apr ^r 1736	6	1		Friday	Wedn	Boston	Boston
Mary Gorham	Mar ^r 1717	Apr ^r 1737	6	6	12	Tuesd	Wedn	Boston	Boston
Solomon Gorham	Oct ^r 1718	Dec ^r 1765	47	1	21	Mon ^d		Boston	Gloucester
Susanna Gorham	Oct ^r 1719	Dec ^r 1728	1		9	Tuesd	Sunday	Boston	Boston
Susan Gorham	June 1721					Saturday		Boston	

Written at Gloucester this 13th day of April, John G Rogers

1783

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COL. JOHN GORHAM'S "WAST BOOK" AND THE GORHAM FAMILY.

(Continued from Vol. XXVIII., July, 1897, p. 136, OF THE RECORD.)

* JOHN OTIS was born November 21, 1657. This family came from Hingham to Barnstable. He married, July 18, 1683, Mercy, youngest daughter of Nathaniel Bacon and Hannah his wife, daughter of Rev. John Mayo. Mercy was born February 8, 1660; she was sister of Esquire John Bacon, father of Desire, who married William Green. John Otis, Jr., born Barnstable, England, January 14, 1622, died January 16, 1683; in his will, dated the same year, he remembers his eldest daughter Mary, wife of John Gowin [Gorham], also Hannah and Elizabeth.† Mary Otis married Col. John Gorham. John Otis, born at Hingham, 1657, married Mercy (or Mary) Bacon, July 18, 1683. He was twenty years representative, eighteen years commander of the militia of the county, thirteen years Chief Justice of Common Pleas and first Judge of Probate. Also twenty-one years, till his death, a member of His Majesty's Council. One of his children, Colonel James, married Mary Allyne, a descendant of Edward Doty, and their son James, born at Barnstable, February 5, 1725, was "the patriot" in the Revolution. Mercy, daughter of the latter, married Gen. James Warren of Plymouth. James Otis, son of John, Jr., born 1663, joined the Canada expedition under Sir William Phipps; was at the taking of Port Royal and was killed in the attack on Quebec.

† This seems to be exact. Stephen was born January 23, 1683, and died in 1743. The number of children agrees with the record preserved, but facts about his trade and the wedding with Elizabeth Gardner are new. Mr. Frank W. Sprague, writing from Florence, Italy, confirms this; he also says: "The story of the beginning of the whaling industry is of value, and another proof of the value of the 'Wast Book.' Lieut.-Colonel John Gorham having furnished whaleboats to the expedition of 1697-1707, shows they probably had them as early as 1680. It is here shown his grandfather was in this business at that time."

‡ Col. Shubael Gorham, son of Lieut.-Colonel John, was born in Barnstable, September 2, 1686, and married, December 23, 1708, his cousin, Mary Thacher, daughter of Col. John Thacher, of Yarmouth. Col. Shubael Gorham took an active part in obtaining the grants made by the Legislature of Massachusetts to the officers and soldiers of King Philip's War, and was the chairman of the committee for Narragansett No. 7 (now Gorham, Me.), which was granted to the officers and soldiers in the company under the command of Capt. John Gorham. He was Colonel of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment in the Louisburg expedition, commission dated February 20, 1744. He was also Captain of the First Company, and died at Louisburg, February 20, 1745/6. One of his officers was Captain Edward Dimock, whose sister married his brother John.

Col. John Gorham was the oldest son of Col. Shubael, and was born in Barnstable, December 12, 1709, and married, March 9, 1731/2, Eliza-

* The small Arabic numerals refer to the text of the "Wast Book" which appeared in the July issue.

† New Eng. Hist. Gen. Reg. II, 284.

beth Allyn, daughter of James Allyn and Susannah Lewis. He resided in Barnstable until 1742. In 1743 he was granted 400 acres of land in Gorham, Me., on condition that he should finish the saw-mill and grist-mill that he had begun there. He did not become a permanent resident there, however. In the year 1744 he was stationed in command of a party of provincial troops at Annapolis Royal, which place being threatened by the enemy, he was sent by Governor Mascarene to Boston to raise troops for its defence. While there he was induced by Governor Shirley to join the expedition then fitting out against Cape Breton. Having raised a number of men for that expedition, he received the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel of his father's regiment of provincials and was put in charge of the whaleboats which were to land the troops. On the death of his father at Louisburg, he was promoted by Gen. Pepperell to be a full colonel. The following letter was written by Col. Gorham, July 5, 1751, from Halifax, to Gen. Pepperell:

"I did your message to our Governor, who since tells me he has wrote your honor.

"I will take the freedom to remind your honor how I came to be in that glorious expedition against Louisburg.

"I was sent up to recruit from Annapolis Royal, by Governor Mascarene, as that fort was then in great danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, and this expedition being then in embryo, I was importuned by Governor Shirley and desired by your honor and many more of the council, to raise a number of men, and purchase whaleboats and proceed in the expedition, as I did, upon condition of my having the liberty of going home with your honor's packet in my own sloop, once the English flag should be hoisted at Louisburg. But I was disappointed in this, and received no commission in his royal regiment. My father died, and most of his regiment at Louisburg. But I thank you for giving me the commission of Colonel of my father's regiment; and I now solicit a letter of recommendation abroad, and assistance to carry through my memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts."

Col. Gorham returned to Annapolis after the capture of Louisburg, and received from Governor Shirley the command of the New England troops sent to Minas with Col. Noble, but was not present in the engagement with the French at Grand Pré, where Noble, who was in command, was killed. He had afterwards command of a body of Rangers composed principally of Indians raised in New England for service in Acadia. Col. Gorham came from Annapolis with the Rangers to Chebucto in June, 1749, and was appointed to the Council of Governor Cornwallis, and was present at the first meeting, July 14, 1749. It is uncertain whether he held a seat in the Council at Annapolis, as there are no records of the Council to be found between 1745 and 1749, and but one entry in 1748, in which his name does not appear. Cornwallis, however, assigned him a place at the Board above those gentlemen who came with him from England. He is called Captain in the list of Cornwallis's Council, which was probably his rank in the regular army, that of Colonel being only militia rank. He was recommended to the consideration of the Government by Gen. Pepperell for his services at Louisburg, and it is probable that the military rank of Captain was then conferred on him. Col. Gorham's name is among those of the Council at a meeting on July 11, 1751. He must have died soon after, for an inventory of his

estate is in the Suffolk County Probate records, Mass., probated May 7, 1752. His widow soon after married Capt. John Stevens and moved to Gloucester, Mass.

Joseph Gorham, brother of Colonel John, was also a distinguished soldier, and attained the rank of Major-General in the British Army. He was born in Barnstable, May 29, 1725; was perhaps at Louisburg with his father in 1745; was a lieutenant of Rangers under Gov. Cornwallis in 1749. He was Captain of Rangers under Gen. Amherst in 1758 and 1759. He went to England about this time to endeavor to have his Rangers put on the establishment of regular troops, and was the bearer of a letter from Gen. Amherst to Gov. Lawrence, dated April 30, 1760, from which the following is an extract:

"I send you this, by Capt. Gorham, who is lately returned from England where he has been, to endeavor to get rank, and to get his company put on the establishment; concerning which, Lord Barrington has desired my opinion, which I have given him, as far as relates Capt. Gorham personally, and, I make no doubt but he will be promoted, as he is very deserving of it; I have, as yet, suspended my judgment, in relation to the establishment of his company. His, is certainly the best I have seen of Rangers, but the best, according to me is no extraordinary thing; however, if you should think that the augmenting of that company, or the establishment of two, would be of any real service or advantage to the Province of Nova Scotia, I shall, upon your answer, recommend this affair to the Secretary of War."

The establishment of Gorham's Rangers as regular troops, under Joseph Gorham as Major-commandant, dates from September 25, 1761. In 1763 his troops were disbanded, and in September he again went to England. In 1766 he again went to England and was appointed a member of the Halifax Council, taking his seat on December 20, 1766. In 1770 he became Lieutenant-Governor of Placentia in Newfoundland; in May, 1772, he became a Lieutenant-Colonel, and in June vacated his seat as member of the Halifax Council. In 1776 he was in command at Fort Cumberland. May 16, 1782, he became a Colonel, and April 29, 1790, a Major-General, probably dying soon after.

Temperance Gorham, daughter of the second John, married Deacon Stephen Clap of Scituate, and was the mother of Rev. Thomas Clap, who was for many years President of Yale College. Another daughter, Mary, married Joseph Hinckley of West Barnstable, a nephew of Thomas Hinckley, Governor of Plymouth. Her son, Isaac Hinckley, was of Harvard College in 1740, and a classmate of Samuel Adams and other distinguished men. During the Revolution he was an active patriot, and was for many years Town Clerk, and one of the Selectmen of Barnstable.

Another daughter, Thankful, married Lieut. John Fuller; and Mercy Gorham, the youngest daughter of Lieut.-Col. John, married the Hon. Sylvanus Bourne, a wealthy merchant. He was many years one of the Governor's Council, Register of Probate and afterwards Judge of Probate.

¹² Joseph Gorham, born February 16, 1654; died July 9, 1726; married, 1678, Sarah *Sturgis*, probably daughter of Edward. She died in 1739. They had:


- i. Sarah, born January 16, 1679.
- ii. Joseph, born April 15, 1681.
- iii. Samuel, born October, 1682.

- iv. John, born February 28, 1684.
- v. Desire, born April, 1685.
- vi. Isaac, born October, 1687.
- vii. Hezekiah, born August, 1689.
- viii. Josiah, born September 7, 1692.

Joseph above took out a marriage license in Yarmouth, which was recorded in Charlestown, Mass., where he married, November 9, 1708, Sarah Kirk, who died April 28, 1722. She was perhaps a niece or younger sister of David Kirk. David senior was from Newfoundland, called "gentleman," married Mary —. According to Wymans, his will, dated May 25, 1694, was proved April 8, 1698, leaving a legacy to son David, and remainder to his wife Mary. Joseph and Sarah had two children born in Yarmouth: George, born November 5, 1694, and Mary, both baptized 3 (1), 1695. The history of Charlestown, Mass., also mentions "Sarah, married Joseph Gorham, 1708," but leaves us in doubt about the relationship. The children by this marriage had the family names. Joseph Gorham married, second, Temperance —. The inventory of his estate, April 28, 1743, by Daniel Hawley and William Lampson, and of his widow Temperance by same, December 6, 1743 and the distribution, 1750, appear on the Probate Records, Stratford, Conn. Issue:

- i. Mary, born Yarmouth, married, April 27, 1730, Dr. Daniel Munson; (2) November 9, 1747, Benjamin Arnold.
- ii. George, born Yarmouth, married Hannah —.
- iii. Joseph, born November 17, 1712; married Hannah —.
- iv. Elizabeth, born November 1, 1716; died November 23, 1716.
- v. John, born July 20, 1718.
- vi. Samuel, born July 15, 1724; married Anne Grooman, December 8, 1747.
- vii. Hezekiah, born March 29, 1728.
- viii. Benjamin, born November, 1733.

The names of the wives of Joseph Gorham, Senior and Junior, were unknown to Amos Otis. The latter was discovered by Miss Louise Tracey of New Haven, Conn., who found the record in Yarmouth, giving day and month. She says they removed to Stratford, Conn., about 1717. Mr. Henry S. Gorham of 197 Wilson Street, Brooklyn, to whom I am indebted for the copy of the "Wast Book," and much of the matter herein, has a copy of the will of Joseph Gorham, in which he names "my daughter Mary Munson." The writer wishes to correct his mistakes published in the Munson Record, II. 731, where the father of Joseph is given as James, and at the same time I may mention it is now established that the mother of Elizabeth Tilley was not Bridget Van der Veld as mentioned on the same page.

In the History of Stratford, I. 219, we read: "Joseph Gorham died April 24, 1742, aged sixty. Sarah, his wife, died April 18, 1822 [1722] in ye thirty-seventh year of her age." Miss Tracey found the Record 1722; the above error is probably typographical. Born 1685, married at twenty-three in 1708, died at thirty-seven in 1722. The mark on the spoon given by Joseph's will to his daughter Mary Munson: , on above page Munson Record is corroborative, and is explained: Joseph and Sarah, Gorham and Kirk.

The entire will, taken from 'the Probate Records, 1741-1748, page 118, is as follows :

" In the name of God, Amen. I Joseph Gorham of Stratford, in ye County of Fairfield and Colony of Connecticut, in New England, being weak and indisposed and infirmed in body but perfect in mind and memory, do ordain and constitute this my last will and testament, in manner and form following.

" Imprimis. I give and bequeath my soul to God, yt gave it me, and my body I recommend to ye earth, to be buried in decent christian burial at ye discretion of my executors (hereafter named) nothing doubting but at ye general resurrection I shall receive ye same again by ye mighty power of God. And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased Almighty God to bless me with in this life, I give demise and dispose of ye same in ye following manner.

" Item. I give to my dear and loving wife yt home I now live in with yt homelot belonging to ye same (or thereto) during my sd wife's natural life, and after my sd wife's decease to be equally divided between my sons, Joseph Gorham, John Gorham, Sam'l Gorham, Hezekiah Gorham, and Benjamin Gorham to they and their assigns forever. I also give to my sd wife [then recites several pieces of silver-plate, describing the marks thereon].

" Item. I give to my son George Gorham a silver two eard cup mark't I ♀ S

" Item. I give to my daughter Mary Munson a silver porringer with no marks, and a spoon mark't I ♀ S

" Item. I give my son Joseph Gorham a silver porringer mark't I ♀ T and a spoon mark't I ♀ S

" Item. I give my son John Gorham two spoons mark't
I likewise constitute make and ordain my executors to this my last will and testament, Temperance my loving wife, and my good friend Ephraim Curtis, and I do absolutely revoke, disannul and disclaim all wills, testaments, legacies and bequests whatsoever, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

" In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22d day of Sept. 1741.

" (Signed)

JOSEPH GORHAM.

" Proven by Temperance 20 May 1742."